

## PROPOSAL I

### Objective

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### OBJECTIVE

Preserve The Garden of Eden as a public amenity for the residents of the housing project and the Lower East Side.

### ARCHITECTURAL SOLUTION

1. Move building 'D' across the street into a configuration like the units at the corner of Forsythe and Stanton St.
2. Push buildings 'A' & 'B' to the property line against the existing building at the northwest corner of Eldridge and Rivington St.
3. Turn building 'C', now with the community space on the ground floor, to face north. Play yard moves to the west of building 'C'. Seating area created between building 'C' and garden wall.
4. Move garden wall 12 feet north. The Garden is reduced by 15%.
5. Pedestrian connection between buildings at Forsythe and Stanton St. and Building 'C' uses existing garden brick paths.

### MAINTENANCE

"The Garden of Eden Conservancy", a non-profit corporation, will be responsible for the cost and actualization of the maintenance of The Garden. "Friends of the Garden" proposed this concept to Joseph Christian in a letter dated September 4, 1984. The Conservancy will function with Housing Authority as the Bryant Park Restoration Corporation does with the Parks Department.

### COST

No increase in cost should occur. Any costs increase from architectural drawing changes and constructing on the south property line will be offset by reduced landscaping costs.

### OBJECTIVE

Honor the memory of The Garden of Eden and create a private garden from fragments of the Garden of Eden for the residents of the housing project.

### PHYSICAL SOLUTION

1. The center of the Garden and the next two rings are completely retained. Fragments of the other rings are retained for a distance of 50 feet north and south of the center, in the rear yard of the project.
2. A Mosaic mural depicting the full extent of the Garden with its environment of urban rubble, be applied to the entire north wall of building 'D', the wall facing the play area. The mosaic will be envisioned and executed under the direction of Pedro Silva or equivalently skilled artist. Mr. Silva, famous for the benches surrounding Grant's Tomb, has already expressed sincere interest in creating the mural.

### MAINTENANCE

The garden will be maintained by community and housing residents under Housing Authority resident garden program. The mosaic mural will be as maintenance free as the brick wall.

### COST

The contractor should build protection for the garden close to construction activity. STOREFRONT will raise funds for the mosaic mural. Approx. \$10,000

STATEMENT TO THE NEW YORK CITY BOARD OF ESTIMATE, DECEMBER 16, 1982.

"Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom . . . either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest (one's) religion in teaching, practice, worship and observance."

Some friends of The Garden of Eden, which honors and dignifies its community, note the ironic timing in the City's having chosen this especially holy and spiritual season to deliberate obliteration of a "labor of love" created under the aegis of Article 18 of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations and of Articles I, IV, V, VII, VIII, IX, X, and XIV of the United States Constitution.

"The Garden of Eden is an urban 'earthwork,' in the tradition of the great Japanese and European gardens," said Lucy Lippard, contributing editor to Art in America, to the City Planning Commission October 20, "and all the more important because it was done independently, without patronage, from love of place. . . . It should be preserved, not made a monument to planning stupidity."

A sculptor recently said, "To get people to understand something they don't isn't easy. But to destroy something you don't understand, to tear it down, smack of fascism."

The Garden, as reported in the December 6, 1979, issue of stern magazine in Germany, serves as a "workshop in human rights," that is, an experiment station in how to bring oxygen and life back to abandoned urban land by self-reliant homesteading.

December 10, last Friday, marked the 34th annual observance of "Human Rights Day" as well as the beginning of Hanukkah, while December 15, yesterday, marked "Bill of Rights Day": "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" or "property."

Even before I was certified by the Department of Cultural Affairs of New York City earlier this year as sculptor-architect of The Garden, it was bringing excellent worldwide publicity to the City.

Where there is no vision, the people perish.

It takes Mother Nature about 500 years to produce one inch of virgin topsoil. On that scale, The Garden represents 2000 to 3000 years of natural evolution, and that's a lot of r(apid)evolution for the City to be trying to vandalize. The Garden represents more than \$100,000 in labor alone, and it has already encouraged beneficial insects and songbirds to return to what was brick rubble. It includes 45 fruit and nut trees, the largest open-to-the-public black raspberry patch in the City, abundant flowers, strawberry plants, etc.

A friend suggested this one: Fiorello La Guardia was known as the little flower--why can't Ed Koch be remembered as the big one?

As one of the statements being presented to you today says, "Adam . . . is trying to give it to the (people of New York) City as a nucleus for the development of parks and gardens. . . . to design some truly innovative public housing, using The Garden . . . could be a stunning example of enlightened city planning and an inspiration to cities around the world. It could turn the tide toward thinking in a more humane way about how life could be . . . for all of us. . . . There is no racial, economic or age separation when it comes to enjoying a garden."

The Garden of Eden, which has been seen first-hand by a growing number of Fourth Estate journalists from around the World, is obviously visible, clearly beautiful, and environmentally sane. Let us all awaken our psyches to its full political-religious reality.

May I leave you with some "food for meditation" written by Stuart Craig Smith of Sea Cliff, Long Island: Adam Purple "is a 'Hero-at-Large'—a hero of the spirit of the family of man. . . . The Purple Man is a New Age monk, a saint . . . giving us something rare, something pure—hope, respect for the earth, our roots. . . . If we cannot accept a simple prayer like this garden—if we cannot preserve it for its true worth—then . . . we . . . return to barbarism."

Happy Hanukkah and a Merry Christmas.

Adam Purple

Adam Purple  
Artist-in-Residence  
184 Forsyth Street  
New York, N.Y.

## STOREFRONT answers Housing Authority

The following problems have been raised by Housing Authority either publicly or private in regards to saving The Garden of Eden. STOREFRONT ~~has~~ responds below to those issues.

### Preface:

The problems below orginate after Housing Authority accepted rejected the following premise: The inclusion of the Garden of Eden would improve the quality of life those living in the project. Does Housing Authority beleive that a new garden across the street or no garden at all is a better state of affairs for New York City.

Squatter's garden throughout the city would be legitimised as permanent uses for city property. ~~of the garden~~

1. Adam Purple's garden is a truely unique creation. the Garden of Eden has been recognised for human achievement by National Geographic and as a work of art by the Department of Cultural Affairs and Lucy Lippard, eminent New York Art critic. The vision fo the garden has been carried by television to Japan, Germany and Italy as well as thoughtout the United States.
2. Special acceptions for squatters or Green Thumb have been made in the past. The Trust for Public Land is currently ra\$\$ng money with city permission to pruchase and maintain endow the Clinton Community Garden on West 48<sup>th</sup> Street. The Zeckendorf Company ~~proxixxexxx~~ repalced the community garden at 96<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway with a roof garden for community gardneers.
3. STOREFRONT proposes that a special New York City task force be set-up for future use to assist with preserving green open space or community garden where possible in the city. This task force would appraise the value of Each garden.

Who will Maintain the garden now and in the future.

*Capital improvements  
task force  
no longer  
available  
garden  
community*

1. Until Adam can no longer maintain the garden, he will be the caretaker. Space should be made for him in the housing project or in one of the nine vacant apartments in 53 Stanton Street. The units are reserved for the homeless and upon the demolition of adam's building, he will e homeless.
2. After Adam Purple is gone -
  - a.) Housing Authroity whill maintain the garden. H.A. does not want to be responsable for such complex caretaking, but perhaps when Adam pruple leaves in 20 years, their attitude will have changed.
  - b.) City Parks Commission assumes responsibility of the garden.
  - c.) The residents of the housing project will maintain the garden volutarily or collect \$8.00 a month per apartment to pay for a part time gardener.
  - d.) A trust fund with an endowment of \$150,000 will be raised to ensure care for the garden. The trust for Public Land will assist Storefrong in setting up the trust.

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21

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$$\begin{array}{r} 8 \\ 8 \longdiv{72} \\ \hline 25 \end{array}$$

25 T:50

3. Assuming the unlikely possibility that all plans fail, the Housing Authority can simply and cheaply grass over the garden. ~~XXXXXX~~ the resulting open space would be equal ~~to~~ in quality to the space currently planned across the street.

A change in site will cause a new review procedure which will prevent Housing Authority from meeting the January 1985 deadline with H.U.D.

1. The architectural plans proposed by STOREFRONT use only the approved site and provide all the 108 units requested by Housing Authority for that area. (72 units for elderly are being provided in a tower located on Eldridge Street south of Rivington.)
2. STOREFRONT would prefer a solution in which the abandoned buildings on Forsyth Street were added to the site. This would allow a better preservation of the garden ~~and~~ by controlling all the space adjacent to it. A new Ursep review process could happen before the January deadline.

A change in architectural plans will cause a delay which would result in the loss of H.U.D. money.

1. The simple changes requested in STOREFRONT's plan require only the design of a new ~~new~~ new corner type building at Forsyth and Stanton. Time and effort would be relatively minor for the architect when altering his drawings.
2. STOREFRONT's conversations with New York architectural office who have performed work for H.U.D. projects reported that major design changes do occur even after construction begins. Many of these changes respond to insufficient funding, but never-the-less in principle changing architectural plans is acceptable.

To much controversy and design changes may cause the developer to withdraw his bid proposal.

1. STOREFRONT's architectural proposal would hardly effect the general budget. The new corner unit may be slightly more expensive, yet a savings will occur because the 15,000 Square feet of the site will not be landscaped by the developer. Yet even if the corner building was twice as expensive as any other and no landscape savings, the increase would be only a maximum of 1.5% the total cost. (Remember the more expensive elderly housing tower down the street is included in the developer's bid.)
2. The sooner Housing Authority chooses to save The Garden of Eden, the sooner the controversy will end. In fact Housing Authority and the developer may eventually receive ~~much~~ much for providing housing with such a garden.

Adam Purple is uncooperative and has refused repeated offers by City officials ~~to~~ to provide a place to relocate the garden.

1. ~~No~~ No city official has ever come to the Garden of Eden to personally discuss a new site. Neither has anyone written Adam Purple any official letter requesting a meeting elsewhere. What they have done, is tell Adam Purple verbally at public gatherings.  
*No  
mass  
He doesn't  
give up  
and start some  
Only one below  
lead project*
2. One can make a new garden, but to move a garden is impossible. Adam Purple created the soil on this place where none had existed for over 100 years. (National Geographic fully describes this near miracle) Gardens are tied to the place and the soil. ~~XXXXXX~~ The large trees can not be transported economically and many fruit trees would die in the transfer. Would the cherry trees around the Jefferson Memorial be the same if they ~~were~~ were transplanted to someplace. Would the Jefferson Memorial be the same without the cherry trees in spring.
3. This argument begs the entire question ~~as~~ of whether the housing project and the neighborhood would not be better off with The garden of Eden than without it. Children and adults now relax, ~~and~~ play and learn in this peaceful oasis; would not the same exist within the housing.

The Garden of Eden is Adam Purple's private domain and not a public place.

1. Ever since the beginning in 1974, the garden has been continually open day and night. There is a stone wall but no chainlink gate has ever blocked entrance to the garden.
2. Adam always discusses the garden and life with anyone who is willing to listen and learn. Stop-by

*Botanical, rareness, child of love last slide!*

*last*

*Art - Storshenge - of positive project*